Essential Beliefs Statements

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Almost inherently, teachers seem to have a lot of importance when it comes to forming attitudes about learning and consequently life in general. This is what has appealed to me in becoming a teacher myself. Being able to have an influence on schoolchildren is similar to being able to have an influence on our future. A future of independent thinkers is the goal that I will strive for in teaching. The importance of thinking for oneself is not only beneficial to the individual, but the group as a whole as new ideas spring from free thought. In an oddly altruistic sense, this is the reason I really want to be a teacher.

In another way, a teacher is able to be a part of so many different young lives. The influence of a teacher has may produce shockwaves throughout a student’s entire lifetime. This is why it is extremely important that we have good teachers, so that students do not end up jaded by the system. Students also bring to the table their varied experiences which will make the practice much more exciting than other professions. Teachers need to understand multiple intelligences and therefore must constantly be learning in different ways. In this way a successful teacher will be a lifelong learner. He should be constantly looking for ways to challenge both himself and his students. This is also what appeals to me in teaching. The ability to not necessarily have a specific goal in mind like building a business or a machine, but to place the acquisition of knowledge and wisdom above all else. Good teaching requires deep intellectual thought and the challenge is what has brought me to it.

What brought me to focus on secondary education was the fact that students are older and more easily relatable. Student might be able to more easily work with me on certain ideas and understand certain concepts that a younger child could not. Also students at this age are more likely to understand themselves and will be coming from a perspective which is highly important to themselves and not their parents or other influencers. What led me to focus on math was a very practical reason. originally I wanted to focus on history, but realized it would be easier to find a job out of college if I was a specialized math teacher.

But it is also true that math does play an important role in the way I think and suits me well. I like to prove things, and the order I follow to prove things (logic) is what I believe to be the most important of concepts. I think that as a result I was always a very lecture driven learner, and I feel that lecturing will be my main focus in teaching. This is the way that I learn best, but I know that others may not learn well this way. I will also be a very results driven teacher. If students are not gaining much from lecture I will have to try another approach.

Some of my concerns in becoming a teacher is receptiveness of students. What I picture in my mind is just having some seemingly brain dead students who will watch me talk but not hear anything. Another thing I fear is students who do not behave in class. I think it will be a struggle to maintain a standing of respect in the minds of students while also being an effective disciplinarian if I need to. From this class I hope to gain lots of very practical information on how to teach. How to reach certain types of students and what to expect.